

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXII. NO. 47.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

Letters

From the People.

Local Patriotism Appears to Be Aroused and Bloomfield's Defenders are Numerous and Active.

Adverse Sentiment.

The Matter of Public School Education a Leading Factor—Home Rule Over the Schools Desired—Predictions that Newark's Tax Rate will Go Higher—Newark's Large Unimproved Territory.

"LET US HAVE PEACE"

The General Desire of Those Who are Tired of the Farnum and Strife.

A Veteran's View.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: Two years ago I went with the Old Guard to Trenton and shouted against annexation. Not many months ago I fell in line with the Old Guard and voted my sentiments in favor of a public palace for municipal use on the Nash property. The palace was to cost \$50,000, and was to be the crowning glory of dear old Bloomfield. Not many weeks since, in response to the call to arms from the Old Guard, I voted against paying the Orange Water Company \$150,000 for its plant, and accepted the Old Guard's advice to pay \$90,000 for the plant. Now I understand that the Old Guard has again called out the reserves to fight against municipal buildings and to knock out water bonds, and then beat a hasty retreat to Newark. Such orders and counter-orders, such marching and counter-marching, and such cries-cries bring me to my senses. I have always had a high appreciation of the Old Guard's sense of judgment in the matter of drains, in the selection of cigars, and in the selection of local politicians, but this latest march has thrown me into confusion. I cannot consistently join the retreat to Newark, and much regret to see the Old Guard headed that way. The Old Guard has out every time it advocated school bonds, and also went out on the road bonds. Where is the sense and consistency of throwing up the sponge simply because a new and younger generation went out on the water bonds? Give the young recruits a chance to see what they can do in politics. We can go to Newark at any time, but it must be borne in mind that once we get under Newark's control we can never get from under it, and Newark politicians can always consistently spurn our petitions for improvements with the contemptuous answer, "We never asked you to come into our city." The Old Guard is confronted with the dilemma of loss of control in home affairs. The effect, it is true, will be humiliating, but why make that loss of prestige an excuse for ceding the entire population of the town in the humiliating attitude of supplicating for admission to Newark before any overture has come from the city? There is choice of honors at stake in this matter, and our people should not be deprived of it. Some of us old boys, who were born here and have spent our lives here, have all over cherished the tradition that a passport from Bloomfield will be more honored at the "peary gates" than one from Newark. The town's reputation is better than that of the city, and the directory is less cumbersome. If the Old Guard would defer its retreat for a time at least, some of us will have secured our hearts' desire of passing to the better land with a passport from Bloomfield. Some of our friends may not attach much importance to the hereafter, and have no objection to going where the majority of Newarkers go, but for those of us who have a dear and cherished choice, the Old Guard should have some consideration.

A VETERAN IN THE SERVICE OF THE GUARD.

Mutual or Bankruptcy.

BLOOMFIELD, March 15, 1904.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: When a business man finds that his assets are less than his liabilities, and as a remedy commits suicide, we always justly consider him a coward. And yet certain men who are considered generally pretty good business men are advising the town of Bloomfield to commit suicide as a remedy for theoretical bankruptcy. Did I say advising suicide as a remedy for bankruptcy? That was an error. The immortal eighteen propose not to give the town of Bloomfield any chance to make up its own mind. They are afraid that the town does not really consider itself bankrupt. Their refusal to add a referendum to their bill was in itself an admission of certain defeat, for if they had been willing to submit the matter

to the judgment of the ballot-box they would have shown thereby their confidence in a decision favorable to their own notions.

The un-American, oligarchic proposition at first submitted by the immortal eighteen aforesaid, was an unforgivable affront to the neighbors of these men, many of whom are more competent than themselves to form opinions upon public matters. However, the immortal eighteen evidently supposed that annexation of the town of Bloomfield to the city of Newark is a private matter for them to decide. In taking this ground they have made a very great mistake. Every one of them has lost what little prestige he used to have here. Even the persons who now will vote for annexation, will be ashamed of the fact that they are voting with the oligarchy.

It is argued that the tax rate of the Sixteenth Ward of Newark will be lower than that of Bloomfield. This matter is open to debate, but I shall not debate it. What I desire to call attention to is the significant fact that the per capita cost of government in the town of Bloomfield is thirteen dollars, while the per capita cost in the city of Newark is twenty-three dollars. In consequence the average citizen of Newark is paying for himself and family about forty dollars more per annum than is the average citizen of Bloomfield, but all this matter of figures I propose to leave to others to discuss. What interests me most is the moral aspect of the matter. Would the people of the town of Bloomfield prefer to have two members of the Board of Education, and two members of the City Council, rather than a fully organized town government? If so, they ought to have the right to vote on the matter. If not, the men who have proposed a bill without a referendum, ought to be retired from all positions of influence here. Such persons have no right to hold public office, for it is evidently their idea to make themselves rulers of the people, rather than servants.

A study of the curious list of the eighteen immortals reveals the fact that not all of them have demonstrated their capacity as business men. One of them at least has recently made a conspicuous demonstration of his inability to manage a large enterprise. I warn the modest people of the town of Bloomfield not to be too much impressed by the list of landlords and capitalists attached to this amazing document. Is there a single public spirited citizen among them? Is there a man who has ever done anything at any cost to himself for the town of Bloomfield as a matter of interest in the welfare of the community? Is there one who has founded a library, or built a monument, or advanced any great public improvement at any great cost to himself? On the contrary, are not these the very men who drive Old Edw. Ridge out of Bloomfield? Have they not been in the past the enemies of the town? Is not their list the worst possible advice we could take?

It is extremely significant that the eighteen immortals include one person who has already repudiated his signature to the petition. It is also significant that six other persons invited to take part in this secret conspiracy against the welfare of the town refused to sign this infamous document. Doubtless some of those who did sign did not know what they were doing. We may confidently look forward to the vote of the town on annexation, for it will demonstrate conclusively that the whole town cannot be hoodwinked and led into bondage by designing landlords and capitalists.

There is a great deal of hard feeling just now in the old town of Bloomfield. In fact, the present condition of things is deplorable. The only remedy is for the eighteen immortals to withdraw their bill in toto, and to apologize to their fellow citizens for having made such a gross moral blunder.

Very respectfully,

A TAXPAYING CITIZEN.

Men or Cattle?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: The question raised at this time by the proposal to become annexed to the city of Newark is simply this: Are the citizens of the town of Bloomfield capable or incapable of conducting and administering their own affairs? If, as a collectivity, they are incapable, then they ought with bidden shamelessness to confess it, publish it to the world, abandon every vestige of civic pride, suppress all feelings of true manhood, and be taken in charge by the city of Newark—a pitiful crowd, who have squandered their inheritance, bartered their birthright, and, unlike the prodigal son, have no sense of repentance left, no patriotism, no God, nothing but the instinct of the hoboe, who has lost all courage and self-respect.

On the other hand, it rests with those citizens, few or many, whose heads are clear, whose hearts still beat true, whose moral training has not been sapped, perverted and besotted by luxury and the pride that goeth before destruction—it rests with these, the honest, faithful and courageous people of Bloomfield, rich or poor, to come now to the rescue.

Are we men, or are we dumb, driven cattle?

AD. E. FURN.

Park M. E. Church.

Dr. W. L. Hoagland, Presiding Elder, will preach at the Park M. E. Church Sunday morning. Dr. Hoagland was formerly pastor of this church and his many friends will be pleased to hear him. In the evening the Choral Union will render the cantata "The Triumph of Truth, or Naaman the Syrian."

Government of the People, for the People, by the People, is needed in Bloomfield. Show your interest in public affairs by coming out to the meeting in Central Hall to-night.—Advt.

Who pays the taxes. Come to Central Hall to-night and find out.—Advt.

Protect your securities and valuable papers against FIRE and BURGLARS by renting a box in the Safe Deposit Vault of The Bloomfield National Bank. Boxes to rent at \$4.00 per year and upwards.—Advt.

Letters Continued on Page 2.

Falling Rock Canal Coal for grate fires. Best in the market. For sale by John J. Murray.—Advt.

Personal Interests vs. Public Interests.—Why Annexation without Referendum is proposed, and Who Benefits by It—Come to the mass meeting in Central Hall to-night.—Advt.

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Of course it was composed of comparatively few citizens. All movements start with a few persons, practically from one person; indeed they can start in no other way. Mass meetings are not adapted to careful discussion or consideration. If those who called the meeting referred to had wanted to have every citizen present they could not have got them in the room, or any room in town. They therefore did the sensible thing and invited thirty or forty citizens, representing various sections of our town. That it was a fairly representative meeting is shown by the names of those invited, although they did not all attend, viz: Theodore H. Ward, Wm. P. Sutphen, C. H. Madole, Thomas Oakes, Tunia Garabrant, Thomas Cadmus, L. B. Harrison, H. J. Ashley, James H. Moore, C. F. Koehler, F. M. Davis, Wm. A. Baldwin, Wm. Biggart, Chas. W. Martin, E. G. Ward, John A. Lawrence, Fred Storms, Dr. J. G. Seile, H. M. Barrett, James C. Beach, E. L. Osborne, Geo. E. Bedell, D. G. Garabrant, Wm. R. Raab, Jos. Fronapfel, Jos. M. Mann, Dr. W. R. Prougnot, Jas. Nichols, Robt. Betts, G. L. Seibert, G. Lee Stout, Frank V. Oakes, John Seibert and Benj. Haskell.

Just here we might remark that the privilege of meeting either publicly or privately—even secretly if they choose—to discuss any plan they may deem advantageous for the town is a privilege accorded to all, and any three or thirty, or three hundred citizens, may have introduced legislation to carry their plans into effect if they can find a legislator to present it. Of course what will be done about it by the Legislature is another matter. Endeavor to introduce a bill in the Legislature, whatever its object, is the privilege of all. Its adoption rests with the Legislature and the Governor.

The subject of annexation was promptly introduced at the meeting of the 11th inst., and it was discussed the whole evening, many of those present taking part in the discussion. Objections to the proposed movement were especially invited, and the largest freedom of debate allowed. A vote was then taken on a simple resolution, expressing as the conviction of those present that the best interests of Bloomfield would be conserved by immediate annexation to Newark. This resolution was adopted unanimously. This result was surprising, as many, if not most of those present were opposed to annexation when they came to the meeting.

After adopting the resolution expressed in the meeting of the 11th inst. it was voted that a committee of three be appointed to see that a bill authorizing annexation was prepared and presented, and the committee was named as below. A motion was then taken that the committee be instructed to attach a referendum clause to the bill. This was advocated by several, while others favored leaving it to the discretion of the committee. The motion failed of adoption by a vote of six in favor to twelve against. This was understood as leaving it to the discretion of the committee to attach it or not, as they seemed best, and announcement was made on their behalf that the bill would be prepared without a referendum, but that if any serious opposition developed it would be amended by adding such a clause.

It was deemed wise by the majority to omit the referendum unless public sentiment really demanded it; as, in case the Legislature passed the bill and it became a law it took effect immediately and saved the necessity for primary meetings, consulting conventions, the spring election and all the expense and trouble connected with these. It would also relieve the Town Council from question as to what course they should pursue in regard to consummating plans in connection with water supply, fire-hoses, etc.

On the next morning following the meeting, it was found that the Newark leaders preferred to have the referendum attached in any case, lest the impression might go abroad that Newark wanted to annex adjoining towns irrespective of the referendum clause. How Mr. Garabrant pounded me unmercifully! How he assailed the saloon-keepers as my allies in the scheme! I firmly believe that I was used as a tool in the annexation affair of 1902. I hope that Mr. Garabrant is not being used as another victim.

CHARLES W. POWERS.

Morale vs. Finance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: In the general affairs of life beyond the realm of politics, when men are confronted with an issue involving a moral question, and a question of finance, the conscience of the average man is prone to dictate the exercise of self-denial and sacrifice in order that good morals may prevail over any pecuniary consideration that may be at stake. Among those men by whom reason of their financial circumstances, the sacrifice of a few dollars is least felt, it is expected that the moral feature of an issue will have the greater preponderance and be more stoutly upheld. In politics, the case appears to be different. While the two features of the issue are the same, lower taxes take precedence of moral issues.

Advocates of annexation to Newark claim that the tax rate will be lower to secure lower taxes all that has been gained in the way of good moral government must be sacrificed. The very feature of this sacrifice of morals to finance is that those to whom the town is indebted for what it has gained in moral ground, advice and urge the sacrifice.

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